DEMAND FOR A STATEMENT ON I.M.F. MEETING

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar) : Sir, I want to raise a very important matter. The World Bank meeting in Washington has just ended and certain very disturbing developments have taken place in this particular meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Our Finance Minister was there but obviously he and other countries have not been able to prevent the developed countries, led by the USA, from introducing a very pernicious principle in the working of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, namely, to penalize the countries which are not in a position to repay their loans : They want to suspend these countries. Now, this is a matter of very grave serious repercussions for our economic policy. Now the only point I will make in a brief statement today Sir, is to ask the Government—I do not know when the Finance Minister is coming back—that the moment Mr. Madhu Dandavate comes here, let the Government assure this House that he will come here, to this House, and make a statement on what exactly has transpired in Washington so that this House gets an opportunity to discuss this matter.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : It is a very serious matter.

SHRI S. JAIPAL (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice Chairman, I do not know whether the House can turn a Nelson's eye to the total absence of the Members of the Congress (I). Could the Chari throw some light on their absence, Sir? Are there weightly reasons for which they thought it fit to absent themselves from this House?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.A. BABY) : No other light is available with the Chair.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र) : 7 बजे के उपवास से वह इतने थक गये हैं कि 11 बजे तक नहीं आ सकते (व्यवधान)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu) : We are real warriors. We will raise this issue when they come.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh) : Have they notified to the House that they would remain absent? (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : Many hon. Members raised the question of serious demage caused due to the cyclone yesterday in parts of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of India is in touch with the State Government for collecting all the information. We have assured all support and assistance to the State Government in meeting the situation. The Prime Minister is contemplating to visit the State tomorrow morning.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, have they notified that they would remain absent today? Are things like the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh less important? I just wanted to know if we nave any formal notification that they are absenting today. Andhra has the cyclone, and the Congress gets uprooted here

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CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported U.S. decision to invoke Super 301 clause of their Trade Act against India and action taken by Government in regard thereto

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, I call th